

## FROM PASTOR TOM

*Remember BEAUTY wherever you are,  
and keep a memory of it with you!*

My granddaughter gave me a copy of Linda Kranz's little book "**Only One You**" for my birthday a year ago. It reminds us how we are part of everybody else's life. It also sparks images of our capacity to add those extra special blessings to the lives of others.

I pick up my copy every once in a while as kind of a "5 minute vacation" when I need some refreshment.

This small book is a good guide to the stewardship of the blessings God has given us as we live and breathe and go about our daily activities.

Recently, I picked it up because to help me cross a multitude of memories I recall about the generations of people I have known and the way each generation has given me some special blessings. Blessings I received from family, friends, neighbors, and even momentary acquaintances (people whose chance meeting with me helped me turn a corner of understanding even when I did not realize I was getting either a *dose of reality* or a *pound of positive insight!*).

Here is how it happened recently and brought to my awareness the idea of "*remembering BEAUTY wherever I am.*"

An old book that was my grandfather's opened to a page. There between the two halves of the book was a greenish yellow *four leaf clover!* My guess is that on the day it was discovered it brought surprise and joy as the finder who sat in a lawn of clover and brushed their hand across the grass. Not that 4 leaf clovers actually bring luck! But, in the chance of a moment, we can see something special. *Superkalafragelisticexpialadosious* – amazing – reminding us blessings are both great and small and come with unexpected and natural occurrence.

The same hand that brushed the clover then picked this little treasure and placed in a semi sacred space between the pages of a favorite book. It was stored there for well over fifty plus years. It kept a hint of its color, a greenish pale yellow, flattened and dried.

Now, rediscovered the 4 leaf clover offered the same surprise as the day it was first plucked more than 3 generations ago - a reminder of the faces of human joy, laughter, and tears, and hope that shaped its first discovery.

Sometimes a seemingly little gesture blossoms in the far distant future to remind us of our humanity in our Creator's world wide garden.

Who of us can imagine how a simple act today will bear fruit 50 year's from now? We pass our common hopes for lasting peaceful beauty beyond the moment of a single day. For us this becomes a stewardship of trusting some of our visions way into the future to have value beyond the beauty of this present moment.

Jesus said, "*Behold the lilies of the field. They neither labor nor spin. Yet, I tell you not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed like these. If this is how God clothes the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is gone, how much more will God cloth those with an ounce of faith. Do not set your heart on anxious worry – for that is how the world frets about today and tomorrow – but your heavenly Father knows what you need, but seek the kingdom...*" (Mt 6:28 and Lk 12:27ff)

When you and I think of all decisions, economies, ups and downs, tragic mishaps, desires, loves, disappointments, violence, and gestures of compassion and trusting investments in human and natural events – we are called to a stewardship of faith and trust. Then, the goodness of our best efforts and everyday gestures will be discovered not with our name on them, but with a well preserved hope to inspire some moment we can not ourselves yet imagine.

"Remember the BEAUTY wherever you are, and keep a memory of it with you!"

*Warmest blessings,  
Pastor Tom*

**PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT**

The Council has met and would like the membership to approve a proposed change in our current bylaws. This is in regards to the terms that members are able to serve on a Board. The reason for the amendment to the Bylaws is that members want to continue serving on their current Boards.

The current Article states:

Article VIII  
Boards

A. General. The boards of the church shall be the Board of Trustees, Boards of Stewardship and Mission, Board of Christian Education, and Board of Deacons. The members of these boards shall be elected for a term of up to three years and may serve up to six consecutive years. The boards shall organize themselves and keep their own records and submit an annual report to the Council. A majority of the board members shall constitute quorum of the board. The boards shall appoint one of their members to the council.

The proposed change would be:

Be it resolved that Article VIII, Section A is hereby amended as follows: the words "*and may serve up to six consecutive years*" shall be stricken from the second sentence.

**"This BY-LAW CHANGE will be presented for a vote at the General Membership Meeting following worship, on Sunday, October 21, 2012". Also on the agenda is adopting the 2013 CHC Budget. Please make the concerted effort to attend this very important general membership meeting.**

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

Church of the Holy Cross will receive the **Neighbors In Need (NIN)** offering on **October 7, 2012** as part of our observance of World Communion Sunday. NIN supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, and is one of the five special offerings of the UCC that our congregation supports.

One-third of NIN funds supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC through the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established

churches and worked with seven Indian nations in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. CAIM supports the work of these local churches and their pastors; encourages youth and young adults; supports persons preparing for Christian ministry; empowers American Indians who are members of non-Indian congregations; and advocates for justice on issues affecting American Indian life.

Two-thirds of the NIN offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries, which makes small but essential grants throughout the year to congregations and organizations engaged in community organizing, public policy advocacy, and direct service. While grants are made to address a wide range of justice priorities, a significant portion of the grants are made to address issues of hunger and poverty. Careful attention is given to make sure every NIN grant recipient reflects the UCC's vision of being a church of Jesus Christ that is multi-racial, multi-cultural, open and affirming, and accessible to all. All applications must be endorsed by the UCC conference minister. In addition, the Justice and Witness Ministries office works with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network to continue its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

**Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible.** It needs your support. Please give generously. Contributions to Neighbors in Need can also be made on-line at any time at: [www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin)

**CHC 2013 BUDGET**

The proposed budget for the coming year is included with this mailing. Please study the budget and bring your concerns and feed back to the **General Membership meeting** scheduled for **Sunday, Oct. 21**. Please make the effort to give your input, ideas and consideration.

**ALZHEIMER WALK**

Just a reminder, please join the members of the Board of Stewardship and Mission on the

"Walk to End Alzheimer's" on **Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet at 8 am at the church's upper parking lot to pool rides to Mooheau Park. If you have a Holy Cross shirt, please wear it. On your registration forms, please use the Team Name "Church of the Holy Cross". We will turn in our forms at the Park on Saturday.

If you are not able to join us, but wish to donate to this important cause, please make your check out to Alzheimer's Association and give it to any of the Board members. Any questions, call Anne at 961-5761. Hope to see you! Thank you!

**SENIOR MINISTRY**

Senior Ministry THIS THURSDAY at 10 am in the Building of Faith. No speaker; instead we will be arranging flowers to deliver to " shut ins". Also, if you're able to deliver meals and/or flowers we would appreciate it. Do come and enjoy good company and a delicious lunch!

**GIVE ALOHA**

The Foodland / Sack 'n Save Give Aloha Matching Gift program ends on Sunday, Sept 30. A prorated matching gift will be given to the organization the donor contributes to. The CHC number is **77840** and donors can make any amount of gift up to a maximum of \$249 per organization. Your Maikai card is required to make any donation. However, the receiving organization gets a report of the amount of the donation, but not the donor's name. If you choose to donate, please drop off your receipt to the church office so that proper credit can be recognized. Thank you.

**5 FOR 5 CHURCH**

**We are '5 for 5' in Mission Support**

Together, we offer *extravagant welcome* to spiritual seekers who find warm hospitality, good news, spiritual nourishment, and a community of justice in UCC congregations. We plant new churches, nurture the vitality of established congregations and reach out through our web ministries to touch the lives of those who are grateful to find a church that welcomes them, no matter where they are on life's journey.

You also support the wider church that makes many other ministries possible,

nurturing leadership and providing resources in stewardship, worship, and evangelism. Because of your giving, we grow into a more intercultural and multi-ethnic church that lifts up the ministry of women and advances the ministry of those challenged by disabilities but gifted and called by God.

The 5 offerings are: Our Church's Wider Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need and the Christmas Fund. Thank you for your generosity and participation.

**VOLUNTEERS FOR SEPTEMBER**

**USHERS:** Newton Chu, Roberta Chu, Moira Tanaka, Mae Kawahara, Gloria Kobayashi

**FLOWERS:**

9/30: Amy Saito (Mem), Thelma Sato

**CHILDCARE:**

9/30: Miyeko Yamane

**LAYREADERS:**

9/30: Karl Kawahara

**VOLUNTEERS FOR OCTOBER**

**USHERS:** Ben Masutomi, Reiko Masutomi, Tammy Nagami, Sets Takemoto, Dorothy Matsui

**FLOWERS:**

10/7: Michi Enomoto (Mem)

10/14: Miyeko Yamane

10/21: M/M Mark Sakumoto (Mem)

10/28: M/M Richard Miyake

**CHILDCARE:**

10/7: Moira Tanaka

10/14: Anne Sadayasu

10/21: Merle Okabe

10/28: Lolita Tanouye

**LAYREADERS:**

10/7: Bethleen Petrus

10/14: Barbara Iwami

10/21: Lei Cruz

10/28: Woody Kita

**REFRESHMENTS:**

10/14: Mae Kawahara, Esther Kodani, Moira Tanaka

10/28: ALL SAINTS DAY – Homecoming Potluck

**OCTOBER PRAYER LIST: Birthday**

Please pray for and send a greeting to these Birthday people

- 02 Pacheco, Irene Betty
- 03 Akiyama, Shizue  
Leonard-Osterwalder, Christine
- 06 Hayashi, Wataru  
Ushijima, Margaret
- 07 Niino-DuPonte, Ruth  
Kimura, Johanna
- 08 Kusano, Sadako
- 09 Sakumoto, Mark
- 10 Chen, Christopher
- 11 Kita, Erin
- 12 Enomoto, Michiko  
Nakamoto, Jordon  
Tanouye, Eric
- 14 Kita, Jennifer
- 15 Kuwaye, Pam  
Kimura, Cathy
- 17 Ushijima, Andi
- 21 Nakamura, Chiyoko  
Nakasone, Laura  
Tanaka, Moira
- 22 Suzuki, Theone
- 25 Mortemore, Avis
- 26 Miyashiro, Kimiyo  
Uchima, Lester
- 29 Tachibana, Sumi  
Tanouye, Mark
- 30 Hashimoto, Amy  
Okuyama, Carl

Mark your calendar!

**Care Givers Meeting**

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 9, 2012. from 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Building of Faith

*Also, please contact me by email with any questions you have and would like to have discussed at the next meeting! We will share your questions with Pastor Tom and Chris Ridley and research answers and resources for our meetings*

*- Jeanne*

**FRIDAY FILMS MUSICALS**

Films are shown from 1 pm at The Institute for Astronomy: from Komohana turn makai on Nowelo and take the first left to the end. Park on the street. Sorry an incorrect start time was published in the last edition.

Cost of the series is \$10, payable at the door.

For more information contact Susan at 933-9313.

Sept 28: Camelot (1967)

Oct 5: Oliver! (1968)

Oct 12: South Pacific (1958)

Oct 19: West Side Story (1961)

Oct 26: Showboat (1951)

Nov 2: Dreamgirls (2006)

Nov 9: Phantom of the Opera (2004)

Nov 16: My Fair Lady (1964)

**Reprinted from Home Touch**

Sunday, October 7, 2012

***THOUGHT: There are two things to do about the gospel. Believe it or behave it.***

There's an old Japanese legend that tells of a man who died and went to heaven. He found heaven to be a beautiful place, filled with peaceful gardens and impressive pagodas

In one of the pagodas, he discovered a room lined with shelves. On the shelves were stacked piles of human ears. That's really odd, he thought. His heavenly guide explained that the ears belonged to all the people on earth who listened to God's teachings, but never acted upon them. All they did was listen, and nod in agreement.

When these people died, therefore, only their ears ended up in heaven

It's a strange story, isn't it? But it illustrates an important truth: It is good to read God's word; but it is better to read and to act upon what we read.

***Prayer: O God, thank you for revealing yourself in your word. Help me to have the wisdom and strength to follow through on what I read. In Jesus' name. Amen.***